

IRS Admits Tapping Own Agents' Wires

Associated Press

Internal Revenue Service officials freely admitted yesterday tapping the phones of their own agents and others suspected of crime and con-

ceded that in some cases they might have been "overzealous." Joseph R. Harmon, deputy chief of IRS intelligence, told a Senate judiciary Subcom-

mittee investigating such practices that he and his subordinates knew of and discussed them, "particularly when we got caught."

O Durke Yung, special IRS intelligence agent who teaches in the Treasury Electronics Devices School, told of various wire taps or listening devices he had installed. He said these were never ordered, but had been requested by one branch of the Service or another.

The hearing under Sen. Edward V. Long (D-W.) was one in a series. At earlier hearings, IRS agents in Pittsburgh,

Boston and taxpayers too many questions" and that the equipment and that he didn't consider wire taps illegal if information obtained in some cases.

was not divulged outside government offices.

Yung said Harmon had never ordered him to place a tap, although requests for lock picking was one of the courses in the Treasury

Harmen, through Harmon, were honored.

Harmen said he knew of

Harmon said he had never the school course and said

authorized wire taps but that "that may be going a little

he was aware that Yung had far."

Most of Yung's testimony concerning wire taps or other practices that he and his subordinates installed by him related to the period prior to 1960 when he was in the inspection service checking on IRS em-

ployees. He said, however, that as an intelligence agent, he had placed or assisted in placing taps on outsiders.

Long said that the organized crime drive ordered in 1961 by former IRS Commissioner Mortimer Caplan included a directive for full use of electronics. He asked Yung

whether he considered this an order to use telephone wire taps.

Yung said he "didn't ask"